



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Santa Ana Chrome-plating Company Cited for Hazardous Waste Violations

CYPRESS – Citing the need for strict enforcement of environmental laws and the need to maintain and enforce compliance, Director of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Maureen Gorsen today announced the issuance of an enforcement order, with a penalty of \$467,500, to Chrome Tech, Inc., a metal-plating facility in Santa Ana. “Chrome Tech, Inc. ignored the rules, so strict enforcement action was appropriate,” said Gorsen.

“If we are to preserve our environment and protect human health, we must ensure that businesses that manage hazardous waste comply with the law,” Gorsen added.

The Chrome Tech, Inc.’s two facilities are located at 2310 West Cape Cod Way and 2309 West Second Street in Santa Ana. The company’s chrome-plating processes generate wastewater containing hazardous substances including cyanide, metals, caustics and acids. DTSC noted numerous violations of hazardous waste laws during inspections of Chrome Tech’s two facilities in February 2004. Local environmental regulators had previously cited Chrome Tech for several of the above stated violation in January 2002.

The violations revealed during the DTSC inspections included:

- Generating and treating hazardous waste without a permit.
- Shipping hazardous waste to a standard landfill instead of a hazardous waste landfill.
- Failure to properly install and provide a leak detection system for containment tanks. These tanks contain hazardous substances including cyanide and corrosive hexavalent chrome waste.
- Failure to develop an adequate contingency plan in case of an emergency.
- Failure to obtain proper emergency equipment.
- Failure to keep proper records and provide hazardous waste management reports and manifests.
- Failure to obtain adequate financial assurance.
- Failure to properly train employees in the handling of hazardous waste.
- Failure to assess the integrity of containment tanks and provide secondary containment.
- Failure to have adequate hazardous waste analysis performed.
- Failure to conduct daily and weekly tank inspections.
- Failure to properly label hazardous waste.

Chrome Tech is in the process of correcting these violations, and many have already been corrected. Within 30 days of the issuance of the order, June 23, 2006, they must prepare and submit an adequate contingency plan, an updated training plan, and a tank assessment report. They must also provide adequate secondary containment for all treatment and storage tanks.

For more information or to view the enforcement order, visit www.dtsc.ca.gov

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control is a department of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC’s mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing

cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.